

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 PC-01 ACDA-12 AID-05
/100 W

-----050314 040121Z /14

R 031810Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7028
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 3212

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF
SUBJECT: NAT WIN SEEN REFLECT CONSERVATISM WITHIN OPPOSITION
BODY POLITIC

1. NEIL VAN HEERDEN, PERSONAL AIDE TO FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA, STATED HE HAD BEEN TOLD LANDSLIDE NATIONALIST PARTY VICTORY WAS SEEN IN CERTAIN SAG CIRCLES AS VINDICATION OF CAMPAIGN STRATEGY TO HASTEN DEMISE OF THE UNITED PARTY AND BRING CONSERVATIVE ENGLISH VOTERS INTO THE NATIONALIST FOLD. SOME POLITICAL ANALYSTS WITHIN THE NP DID NOT ATTRIBUTE THE VICTORY TO A SWING TO THE RIGHT BUT RATHER AS FORCING THE CONSERVATIVE VOTER TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE NATIONALISTS AND THE "LEFTIST" PFP. VAN HEERDEN SAID THE OPPOSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRESUMED TO BE MORE TO THE LEFT THAN THE NATIONALISTS BUT, IN REALITY, THE UNITED PARTY WAS AN UNWIELDY COALITION OF RIGHT WING AND LEFT WING ENGLISH SPEAKERS. WITH THE UP OUT OF THE WAY, IT WAS EASIER FOR THE NATS TO SWEEP MANY OF THE ENGLISH "VERKRAMPTE" INTO THEIR FOLD PARTICULARLY AS THE NRP AND THE SAP WERE CLEARLY STOP GAP
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EFFORTS TO STEM THE COMPLETE WITHERING AWAY OF THE UP.

2. VAN HEERDEN FURTHER DISCOUNTED THE THEORY THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS INDICATED A SWING TO THE RIGHT, SAYING IF THAT WERE SO, THE FAR RIGHT HNP WOULD HAVE IMPROVED THEIR POSITION (IN FACT, THE HNP SEEMS TO HAVE LOST GROUND).

3. VAN HEERDEN MENTIONED ALSO THAT PIK BOTHA HAD STATED THAT
IT WAS HIS HOPE THAT, WITH THE ELECTION OVER AND RHETORIC
ASIDE, THERE COULD BE A "COOLING OFF" PERIOD BETWEEN THEUS
AND SOUTH AFRICA ALLOWING TIME FOR SOME OF THE BRICKBATS THAT
HAVE FLOWN BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO BE FORGOTTEN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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